

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-17 are currently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1 and 13 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of all pending rejections in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Applicant appreciates the indication that claim 17 contains allowable subject matter. However, Applicant submits that all of the claims are in condition for allowance for the following reasons.

***35 U.S.C. §112 Rejection, First Paragraph***

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly not reasonably providing enablement for a transparent portion that is stationary, non-movable, and movably guided within a groove. The rejection of claim 9 is respectfully traversed.

Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to at least one aspect of the instant invention, shown in for example figures 4A and 4B, that shows a transparent window 28 that is both stationary and non-movable with respect to both the cable 10 and the clamp 24. Similarly, an aspect of the present invention is shown in figure 4C that shows a transparent window (not numbered) that is both stationary and non-movable with respect to both the cable 10 and the clamp 24. Moreover, this aspect of the instant invention further shows a transparent ring 30 that is positioned within a groove 32 in clamp 24. The window of the clamp 24 is stationary and non-movable with respect to the cable 10 and the connector and the transparent ring 30 is movably guided with respect to the connector and the cable 10. Thus, the instant disclosure sets forth that

the ring 30 may be movably guided within a groove 32 with a window that is stationary and non-movable. Applicant submits that the disclosure does reasonably provide enablement for the presently claimed invention.

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw that 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, rejection.

### ***35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejection***

Claims 1, 3, and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,434,315 issued to Grois, *et al.* ("Gris"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for at least the following reasons.

#### ***Claims 1 and 7***

Claims 1 and 7 are directed to a strain relief clamp that includes a stationary, non-movable transparent portion. In particular, representative claim 1 recites, in pertinent part:

a stationary, non-movable transparent portion through which the marking of interest on the cable is visible when the strain relief clamp is installed on the connector.

Such features are not shown or suggested in the combination of AAPA and Grois.

Contrary to the present invention, AAPA is merely directed to the marking of cables. The AAPA does not disclose any use of marking with respect to connectors and more specifically strain relief clamps. This is buttressed by the Examiner's statement that the AAPA does not disclose a strain relief clamp with a transparent portion through which a marking of interest on a cable is visible when the strain relief claim is installed on a connector.

Applicant further submits that Grois merely discloses a fiber optic connector, shown in figure 1, having two pieces: a base housing 22 and a flat,

slidable cover 24. Included in the cover 22 is a transparent window 80. However, contrary to the present invention, Grois only teaches that the window allows inspection of unmarked, spread-apart optical fibers, which branch out from an end of a fiber optic cable (See column 3, lines 65-67).

Moreover, the Grois complementary interengaging strain relief members, provided on the base portion and the cover, are structured to embrace the fiber optic cable whenever the cover is slidably mounted onto the base portion. The slidable cover disclosed by Grois is movable from a first open position to a second closed position. When the cover is in the open position and/or separated from the base portion, the fiber optic cable is inserted into the base portion of the connector. Once the cable is inserted, the cover is moved to the closed position to secure the cable within the connector. Such an easily moved window is contrary the claimed invention, which, in claims 1 and 7, recite a stationary, non-separable transparent portion.

Consequently, even if Grois and the AAPA were combined, the combination would not result in the invention as recited in claims 1 and 7.

Applicant further notes that, under 35 U.S.C. § 103, it is incumbent upon the Examiner to provide a reason why one of ordinary skill in the art would have found it obvious to modify a prior art reference or to combine reference teachings to arrive at the claimed invention. To this end, the requisite motivation must stem from some teaching, suggestion or inference in the prior art as a whole or from the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art and not from Applicant's disclosure. Applicant respectfully asserts that neither AAPA nor Grois set forth any such motivation.

In this regard, there is nothing in AAPA that teaches or even suggests using cable marking with respect to a strain relief clamp having a window. Moreover, there is no disclosure

or suggestion of using the window of Grois for anything other than viewing the spread of cables. One of ordinary skill would have no motivation to combine these references in the manner indicated by the Examiner; that is for viewing markings on the cable.

Because, there is no suggestion or disclosure in AAPA or Grois separately or in any proper combination that render obvious the features of the present claimed invention, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Thus, claims 1 and 7 are allowable over the combination of AAPA in view of Grois. Moreover, claim 3 depends from claim 1 and is also allowable for the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for its added features.

#### *Claim 2*

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Grois, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,367,897 to Beier et al. ("Beier"). This rejection is traversed.

Applicant notes that claim 2 depends from allowable claim 1, and as such, includes all the elements thereof. Because claim 1 recites at least one novel element (e.g., a stationary, non-movable transparent portion) not disclosed in the AAPA or the cited references, whether alone or in combination, claim 2 is also allowable. Moreover, claim 2 recites additional features including, *inter alia*, an antikink protective sleeve, not taught or suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection and pass claim 2 to issue.

*Claims 4-6, 8, and 10-12*

Claims 4-6, 8, and 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Grois, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,297,816 to Waddington (“Waddington”). This rejection is traversed.

Applicant notes that claims 4-6, 8, and 10-12 depend from one of allowable claims 1 and 7, and as such, include all the elements thereof. Because claims 1 and 7 recite at least one novel element (e.g., a stationary, non-movable transparent portion) not disclosed in the AAPA or the cited references, whether alone or in combination, claims 4-6, 8, and 10-12 are also allowable.

Moreover, claims 4-6, 8, and 10-12 recite additional features including, *inter alia*, the transparent portion includes a transparent ring that is arranged in a groove of the strain relief clamp, wherein the ring is transparent in an area that makes the marking of interest visible when the clamp is installed on the connector, and the ring is substantially opaque elsewhere, and wherein the transparent ring is provided about an entire circumference of the strain relief clamp, which are not taught or suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection and pass claims 4-6, 8, and 10-12 to issue.

*Claims 13-16*

Claims 13-16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over AAPA in view of Grois and Waddington. This rejection is traversed.

Independent claim 13 is directed to a connector having a strain relief clamp with a window circumferentially positioned about an entire clamp. More specifically, claim 13 recites, in part:

a strain relief clamp fixedly mounted on the connector, the strain relief clamp having a window proximate an end of the strain relief clamp aligning with a prescribed identification mark of the identification marks on the cable, the window being circumferentially positioned about an entire strain relief clamp.

As explained above, AAPA does not disclose any use of marking with respect to connectors and more specifically strain relief clamps. Moreover, AAPA discloses no window circumferentially positioned about the entire strain relief clamp. In fact, the Examiner's admits that the AAPA does not disclose a strain relief clamp with a transparent portion through which a marking of interest on a cable is visible when the strain relief claim is installed on a connector.

Grois merely discloses a fiber optic connector that allows inspection of unmarked, spread-apart optical fibers, which branch out from an end of a fiber optic cable (See column 3, lines 65-67). In Grois, the strain relief clamp includes a window only at a top portion of the flat cover. The window is plate shaped and cannot be circumferentially positioned about the clamp. In fact, the transparent window cannot be circumferentially positioned about the entire strain relief clamp and the clamp is a two-piece configuration having a combined rectangular cross-section.

Waddington is directed to an electrical connector 15, such as a wire-nut for wires that may be transparent. Applicant submits that Waddington discloses no strain relief clamp having a window or marking cables. Also, Applicant respectfully asserts that the transparent connector housing of Waddington is not the same as a window that is circumferentially positioned about an entire strain relief clamp.

Accordingly, nothing in Grois, AAPA, or Waddington discloses or suggests, *inter alia*, a window being circumferentially positioned about the entire strain relief clamp as recited by claim 13. Consequently, even if Grois, Waddington, and AAPA were combined, the

combination would not result in the invention as recited in claim 13. The Examiner's admits that the AAPA does not disclose a strain relief clamp with a transparent portion through which a marking of interest on a cable is visible when the strain relief claim is installed on a connector.

Accordingly, claim 13 is allowable because the combination of AAPA, Grois, and Waddington fail to disclose the features recited therein.

Applicant notes that claims 14-16 depend from allowable claim 13, and as such, include all the elements thereof. Because claim 13 recites at least one novel element (e.g., window being circumferentially positioned about the entire strain relief clamp) not disclosed in the AAPA or the cited references, whether alone or in combination, claims 14-16 are also allowable. Moreover, claims 14-16 recite additional features including, *inter alia*, wherein the window comprises a transparent portion and an opaque portion, the strain relief clamp comprises a groove, and wherein the window defines a ring, which are not taught or suggested by the prior art. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejection and pass claims 14-16 to issue.

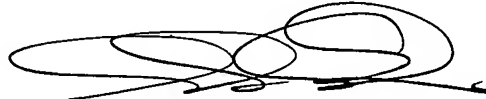
#### ***Minor Amendments***

Additionally, minor amendments have been made to claims 1 and 13 in order to improve the language thereof. In these amendments, Applicant has made several changes to the language of the claims to render the same more self consistent, as well as more fully in compliance with U.S. syntax, idiom and grammar. These amendments do not change the scope of the claims but are merely cosmetic changes that give rise to no file wrapper estoppel.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicant submits that all of the rejections have been overcome, and that the claims are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue, and to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below, if needed. Applicant hereby makes a written conditional petition for extension of time, if required. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to **Deposit Account No. 09-0457 (Endicott)**.

Respectfully submitted,



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